## Message Text

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**UNCLAS QUEBEC 0233** 

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TAGS: ELAB, SOPN, CA

SUBJ: LE SOLEIL RESUMES PULBICATION AFTER 10-MONTH LAYOFF

REF: 77 QUEBEC 0328

- 1. QUEBEC CITY'S ONLY SERIOUS DAILY NEWSPAPER,
  LE SOLEIL, RESUMED PUBLICATION JULY 8 WITH A PRESS RUN OF 152,000
  ENDING A 10-MONTH STRIKE. LE SOLEIL'S JOURNALISTS HAD WALKED
  OUT ON AUGUST 29, 1977 (REFTEL) OVER A NUMBER OF ISSUES,
  PRIMARILY JOURNALISTS' CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN STORIES.
  DURING THE COURSE OF THE STRIKE DISPUTES SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS
  SUCH AS SALARIES AND WORK CONDITIONS.
- 2. CONFLICT WAS FINALLY RESOLVED ONLY AFTER GOQ ENTERED NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY BY CALLING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REFEREE DISPUTE. IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN SATURDAY'S EDITION, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF CLAUDE BEAUCHAMP GAVE PRIMARY CREDIT FOR JOURNALISTS AND MANAGEMENT TOGETHER TO PQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES GUY BISAILLON AND GUY CHEVRETTE AS WELL AS GOQ MEDIATOR RAYMOND LEBOEUF. FINAL SETTLEMENT REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT GAINS FOR JOURNALISTS AND TECHNICAL STAFF IN TERMS OF SALARIES, BUT ONLY MINOR MANAGEMENT CONCESSIONS IN AREA OF EDITORIAL CONTROL. UNCLASSIFIED

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SALARIES IN NEW FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT ARE NOW ON A PAR WITH THOSE NEGOTIATED LAST MAY FOR MONTREAL'S LA PRESSE (MONTREAL 0919), I. E. EXPERIENCED JOURNALISTS WILL BE MAKING DOLS 500 WEEKLY BY END OF 1980. SETTLEMENT PROVIDES FOR FOUR WEEKS VACATION ANNUALLY AFTER FOUR YEARS EMPLOYMENT, FIVE WEEKS AFTER 20 YEARS, AND SIX WEEKS AFTER 25 YEARS.

SETTLEMENT ALSO PROVIDES FOR "OPEN" GRIEVANCE SYSTEM WHEREBY

GRIEVABLE SUBJECTS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE COVERED IN CONVENTION; AND A STRICT TIMETABLE FOR PROCESSING GRIEVANCES IS ESTABLISHED. IN AREA OF EDITORIAL CONTROL, VIRTUALLY ONLY CONCESSION BY PAPER'S MANAGEMENT WAS TO AGREE NOT TO RUN STORIES BY LE SOLEIL'S JOURNALISTS IN OTHER PROVINCIAL PAPERS OWNED BY THE PARENT COMPANY, UNIMEDIA. THIS CONCESSION, MOTIVATED BY EMPLOYEE CONCERNS OVER CONCENTRATION OF PRESS OWNERSHIP IN THE PROVINCE, DID NOT APPLY TO LE SOLEIL'S REGULAR COLUMNISTS.

3. REAPPEARANCE OF LE SOLEIL BRINGS TO AN END PERIOD OF NEWS DROUGHT FOR QUEBEC CITY IN WHICH ONLY LOCAL NEWS OUTLET, ASIDE FROM ELECTRONIC MEDIA, WAS TABLOID JOURNAL DE QUEBEC, WHICH CONCENTRATES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON CRIME, CAR WRECKS, CHEESECAKE, AND SPORTS.

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